

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. *Remark regarding the amendment*

Claim 1 was amended to correct to typographic errors that occurred in the last amendment – namely deletion of an extra comma and insertion of the omitted preposition “to”. No substantive changes, no new matter and no new issues are raised by these amendments.

2. *Response to the rejection*

The present claims 1 and 3-20 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,639,379 (Asai) in view of U.S. Patent 6,476,102 (Jeong).

The pending claims relate to ignition resistant polymeric composites. Applicants discovered that they could make articles that passed the UL-94 flame retardancy test while using substantially less flame retardant than is normally required to pass the test by using relatively low amounts of flame retardant in combination with an organosilicon layer adhered to the surface of the article. Claim 1 is addressed to the embodiment of the invention for polymeric articles made of the listed polymers. Claim 11 is addressed to the embodiment of the invention where the polymeric article comprises a blend of polycarbonate and ABS. The problem the inventors were seeking to solve was to get good flame resistance while avoiding the drawbacks arising from use of conventional flame retardants in conventional amounts to achieve that flame resistance.

Asai teaches a polymeric article having an organosilicon coating used to improve antistatic properties. Asai contains a generic reference to the use of “conventional additives and processing aids including . . . flame retardants . . .”. Clearly Asai does not teach or suggest that those flame retardants be used in other than conventional amounts.

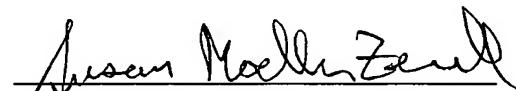
Jeong teaches polyamides (which are not included within the scope of the pending claims) having phosphorous containing flame retardants as adhesion promoters in amounts of 0.1 to 5 parts by weight. Jeong further teaches addition of other additives including flame retardants. Clearly, Jeong teaching of a use of phosphorous containing flame retardants as adhesion promoters in low amounts in

polyamides would not have led a skilled worker to only use low amounts of flame retardants since Jeong further suggests use of additional flame retardants. Moreover, Jeong's teaching with regard to polyamides is not necessarily transferable to other polymer systems that may have different inherent flammability and adhesion properties. Thus, Jeong's limited teachings do not reasonably combine with Asai's teachings to render the present claims obvious.

The rejection is clearly based on impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the references.

In view of the above discussion, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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